

Parenting Time Scenario (Optional)

Parents:

Mother – Janice Jacobson

Legal Father to Stacey and Maggie – Robert Wilson

Putative Father to Billy – Jake Brown

Children:

Stacey (age 9)

Maggie (age 7)

Billy (age 1 ½)

Stacey, Maggie and Billy came into foster care 27 days ago. The children came into care because of extreme neglect and substance abuse by Janice Jacobson, the mother. The children were left home alone for two days and there was little food in the home at the time they were found by police. Also, the home was in disarray at the time of placement. There was animal feces and urine on the floor, no sheets on the bed, old food was dried on the counters, and Billy had a bad diaper rash. Janice has not received any financial support from the fathers of the children and the children have not had contact with their fathers in at least two years (Billy has never had contact with his father).

Stacey and Maggie have been placed in one foster home, while Billy is in a separate foster home. The children have only been able to see each other at your office during their weekly visits with their mother.

You have already met with Janice Jacobson, the mother, and Robert Wilson, the legal father to Stacey and Maggie. Janice reported that Jake Brown is the father to Billy, but she doesn't know where he lives or how to contact him. She has reported the same information to the Friend of the Court. She further reported that she wanted to do anything she could to have her children returned to her care. She admitted that her drug of choice is cocaine, but she also consumes alcohol and uses marijuana. She completed a substance abuse assessment and has been referred to an intensive out-patient treatment program that meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am – 1:00pm. The treatment facility picks her up at 8:15am and drops her off at home at 1:45pm. She has also started therapy through the treatment facility and gets on the city bus at 2:15pm on Thursdays and is home by 5:00pm. She has also started her parenting education and the educator comes to her home on Tuesdays from 10:00am until 11:30am. She is also submitting to random drug screens, at your request. She has been exempted from WorkFirst because of her schedule. Janice doesn't have transportation and lives about 8 miles from the office. She desperately wants to see her children as much as possible. The court ordered that her parenting time be supervised. Janice does have a live together partner named Sam Cook. He has been living in the home for about three months. Janice reported that Sam was with her when the children were left alone.

She minimizes his drug use, indicating that he has a full time job and only uses cocaine occasionally. She wants to have Sam come to the visits with her. She loves him and they have discussed getting married. His work schedule is from 8:00am until 5:00pm. He works for an auto-body repair center, painting cars. Sam has not made himself available to meet with you, stating that he can't miss work or he will be fired.

Robert Wilson reported that he just got out of jail for drug charges. He knows that he hasn't seen his children for a long time, but he wants to participate with services and visit with the children. The court ordered that his visits be supervised. Robert is living with his mother and is on an Electronic Monitoring Device (tether). He has to have pre-approval from his probation agent to leave his home. You referred him for a psychological evaluation, but he failed to show. He is already enrolled in a substance abuse treatment program as part of his probation and provides monthly drug screens at his probation agent's office.

You have tried to locate Jake Brown, but because you don't have an address or a date of birth, you have been unable to identify his location.

Questions to answer:

How would you negotiate the parenting time schedule?

Who would you contact first for scheduling? The foster parents, the birth mother or the birth father?

Whose schedule takes precedence? The mother's, the father's, the foster parents', Janice's LTP, or the worker's?

Where would you schedule the visits to occur?

Is the visitation site family friendly and conducive to the normal interaction between a parent and child?

How often would the parents have visits? How long will the visits last?

Who would you consider to provide transportation and supervision for the parenting time?

What are your expectations of the parents during their visits?

Who is allowed to come to parenting time?

How would you discuss parenting time concerns and accomplishments with the parents?

What is your recommendation for parenting time if the children are continued in out-of-home placement?